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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 864
By Givens

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Dr. D. M. "Pete" Gossett upon completing a long and successful career at the University of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Dr. Pete Gossett has been employed by the University of Tennessee for the past 33 years in positions that included being a weed control specialist with the UT Agricultural Extension Service, superintendent of the UT Agricultural Experiment Station at Jackson, assistant dean and dean of the Agricultural Experiment Station, and reaching the apex of his career, school vice president for agriculture since 1987; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gossett's background and experience have given him an excellent perspective of the important role the Institute of Agriculture plays in making positive contributions to Tennessee and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Gossett's leadership at UT, enrollments in agriculture are up, the quality of research at the Institute—especially in no-till crop production, soil and water conservation, and veterinary medicine—is among the nation's best, and programs in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H, and community resource development in the Agricultural Extension Service are outstanding; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing funding for a new animal research facility what will open this summer, the first new building constructed on the agricultural campus since 1981 and which is Phase I of a three-stage construction project that will also include a new

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agricultural, biological, and environmental research complex and state-of-the-art greenhouses; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gossett is a native son of Tennessee, born and raised on a farm in Benton County and graduated from the University of Tennessee, Martin (where he was president of the student body for two years and was voted “Mr. UT”) with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and holds an Master of Science degree in agronomy from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University; and

WHEREAS, as vice president of agriculture, Dr. Gossett oversees the management of the UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, the Agricultural Experiment Station with its 11 branches statewide, and the Agricultural Extension Service with offices in all 95 counties, for a total of nearly 2,000 employees, which constitute a statewide presence unsurpassed by any other unit of the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he has been a leader in Tennessee’s agriculture industry for many years including serving as a member of the Governor’s Council on Agriculture and Forestry and serving on the boards of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Agricenter International, the Tennessee Valley Fair, the Tennessee Soybean Association, the Tennessee 4-H Club Foundation, and the Tennessee Crop Improvement Association; and

WHEREAS, on the national scene, Dr. Gossett has been vice-chair of the National Commission on Agriculture and Rural Development Policy, president of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, chair of the Southern Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, past president of the Administrative Heads Section (Southern Region) of the National Association of Southern Universities and Land-Grant Colleges; and

WHEREAS, he has been honored by the Benton County Commission with a proclamation in recognition of his contributions to Tennessee agriculture and with a plaque from

both the Holiday and McIlwain communities and the Tennessee Farmers Insurance Companies; and

WHEREAS, he has been a member of many honorary societies including Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Zeta, and Epsilon Sigma Phi as well as Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, he was selected in 1998 as Man of the Year in Services to Tennessee Agriculture by *Progressive Farmer* magazine, which recognized him for an administrative style that encourages “harmony among farmers, researchers, and extension workers across the state”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. D. M. Gossett is the son of Cecil and Georgia Gossett; brother to Dr. Billy Gossett of Clemson, South Carolina, and Dr. Jay Gossett of Cuero, Texas; husband to his college sweetheart, the former Marjorie Evans of Huntingdon, Tennessee; father to John Gossett, father-in-law to Mimi Gossett, and grandfather to a delightful grandson, Hunter Gossett—all of Newland, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, during his retirement, Dr. D. M. Gossett plans to go fishing and travel around the United States with his charming wife, Marj, the epitome of the gracious Southern lady and to whom he has been married for 41 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor, commend, and congratulate Dr. D. M. “Pete” Gossett, vice president of agriculture at the University of Tennessee, upon his retirement and to offer our best wishes for the years ahead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.